

THE CHURCH NEWSLETTER

FOR BANCROFT AND MORRICE UNITED METHODIST CHURCHES

SEPTEMBER 2011

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NINA MORTIMORE, EDITOR
www.bmpumc.org

[We] have a shared mission to serve God to the best of our ability by making him known in our church, community and world.

Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you for your kind welcome as we have begun walking in ministry together. I'm so glad we began our first Sunday together renewing our commitment to faithfully participate in the ministries of the church by our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness. I regularly review these five paths of participation to examine my spiritual health. I encourage you to use them to examine your spiritual health as well as the health of the church. This month, let's focus on prayer. Next month, we will look at presence.

The Apostle Paul teaches, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:6-7NIV)

Jesus encouraged his disciples to pray that they, the church, could do the work of ministry. He promised, "I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it." (John 14:13-14NIV)

Looking at our Methodist history, we see that John Wesley framed his days with prayer. He saw prayer as "spiritual breathing." What a beautiful image! To thrive, our spirits need regular contact with God.

What exactly is prayer? Prayer is simply turning our attention to God, a practice that helps us recognize God's presence and influence in the daily stuff of our lives.

How do we pray? We may pray privately or together in Christian community. Sometimes we use the wonderful written prayers we have inherited from people who walked with God in deep devotion. Sometimes we pray spontaneously.

There are so many ways to pray! Some folks prefer to pray in total silence. Others prefer soft music. Some need to sit still, others pray best while walking or jogging. Some need physical things to hold or see, such as pictures of Jesus, their Bible, or a cross. Others prefer nothing to distract their thoughts when connecting with God. We can pray by:

- Agreeing with the words of written or memorized prayers, such as The Lord's Prayer.
- Singing our prayers with worship music at church, at home, while driving or walking, lifting the words in song as our own words to God.
- Having a simple conversation with God, no fancy words but simply telling God how things have been, sharing our excitement, saying thank you, sharing our concerns, and asking for help.
- Raising simple words of thanks to God throughout the day or simple requests for mercy.
- Sitting with God at the end of the day, and reviewing the day together, remembering that we are dearly loved.
- Experiencing God in nature and responding to what we see and learn and feel.
- Writing our thoughts and responses to God.
- Praying without words, sitting silently with God or prayerfully drawing our thoughts and feelings.

However we pray, the important thing is to pray—every day! I encourage you to find ways of praying that work for you, and pray! Praying is a life-giving practice.

cont'd →

Healthy churches are praying churches. Let's look for ways we can pray for and with our church. Perhaps folks could volunteer to pray throughout our worship time on Sunday morning. Sending out our prayer concerns via email as an e-chain/prayer chain, would remind folks connected online to pray for others. Holding and attending a half-day workshop about prayer could breathe new life into our praying. Reading books on prayer and utilizing prayer websites can renew our prayer. *Too Busy Not To Pray* by Bill Hybels, *Dimensions of Prayer* by Douglass V. Steere, and *Praying in Color* by Sybil MacBeth are great books on prayer. Some good websites are: www.rejesus.co.uk, www.upperroom.org/methodx, www.sacredspace.ie, and www.pray-as-you-go.org. On September 18, Sarah Cooney has invited folks to her home for a time of silent prayer and spiritual reflection. If you can't participate in this special time of prayer, you can request that someone pray for you that day. (See insert in bulletin)

Prayer breathes life into our souls and into our churches. Let's pray and look for ways we can be a praying church!

Blessings,
Pastor Tricia



Hour of Prayer:

This is a new initiative to bring together smaller groups of people in a quiet environment to pray and to spend some time on spiritual reflection. If you have never participated in an event like this, I will tell you what to expect. It will be held in a parishioner's home (Sarah and Tim Cooney's home to start) and the environment will be quiet from start to end. You will be asked to enter quietly and to leave quietly.

Please remember to silence your cell phones prior to coming inside. When you enter, you will be directed down a hallway to lay your coat in the bedroom. There will be coffee, tea and water available for you to take from the dining room to where you chose to sit, and you may then find a comfortable place to sit either in the dining room or living room. It will be informal and there will be comfortable places to sit including soft, firm and even some places on the floor. **There will be no out loud prayers during this hour.** You are free to get up and move around if need be, or to use the restroom facilities, but you are asked to remain quiet during this hour. At the end of the 60 minutes a soft song will play and you will be free to leave as you desire. If you would like to stay longer, you may. As long as there is one person there, the environment will remain calm and quiet.

A prayer journal will be placed in each church prior to the hour of prayer date. Parishioners are encouraged to write as much or as little about who and what they would like prayer for. These journals will be available during this hour for participants to review and use for their prayers or if participants chose not to use the journals, that is ok too. All entries in this journal will be prayed for (maybe even more than once). I have placed an example in each journal which you may follow or simply write your concerns as the spirit moves you.

I can tell you from experience that this can be a very spiritually uplifting hour. In our busy lives, we may pray often, but typically not for an entire hour. I invite you to join in this experience to feel the power of God.

If you have questions prior to this event, please call Sarah Cooney at 634-8172.

Directions to the Cooney household:

Our yellow ranch home with a brick front is located on Lansing Rd just east of Lemmon. It sits on the south side of the road and has a green address number on the mailbox of 4200. There is a large open field across the street.

Please park bumper to bumper in the driveway as the driveway is small, but will accommodate quite a few cars. If you must leave before the hour is up, feel free to park on the shoulder of Lansing Rd near the house.

MISSIONS

PEACE WITH JUSTICE

The Peace With Justice special offering will be collected September 25. Funds are used for special peace making programs of the United Methodist Church. Half of the funds are used for programs in the Detroit Conference and the other half to the rest of the United States and the world.

SHEPHERD'S FUND

A special fund to help those in our immediate community is very low on funds. To help, please place a marked envelope with your donation in the collection plate.

UMCOR

The United Methodist Committee on Relief or UMCOR is how we can be in mission to those in need in all areas of the United States and in the world. To donate, please use the Advance # on your check memo line, made out to your church and drop in the collection plate. Above all else, please pray for those in need and those working with them. For more information, go to www.umcor.org.

HORN OF AFRICA

Drought in the nations of Somalia, Kenya and Ethiopia have brought many to live in refugee camps. UMCOR is working with other aid organizations to assist with food and other supplies. Use Advance # 982450, International Disaster Response on your check.

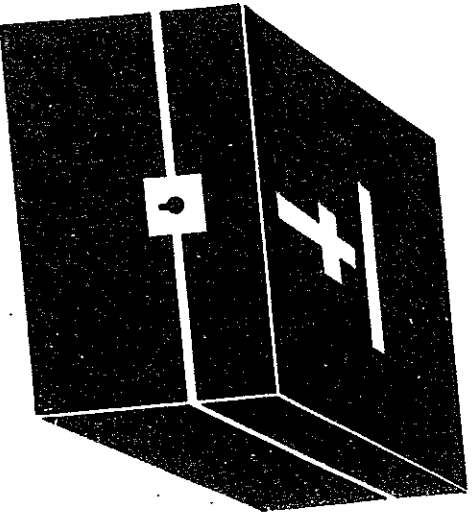
JAPAN

Japan continues to recover from the devastation of earthquakes, a tsunami and a nuclear reactor meltdown. UMCOR is working with relief agencies in Japan to help with rebuilding lives changed in the last several months. Please use Advance # 999895, Undesignated, on your check.

UNITED STATES

Areas of the United States have been affected by tornadoes, floods and hurricanes. To help those victims of natural disasters in this country, use Advance # 901670, U.S. Disaster Response.

CROP WALK IS OCTOBER 2 AT MORRICE!



BACK
GET TO
SCHOOL

Keep all our students and school personnel in your prayers as a new school year begins this month. Keep all our college students in your prayers too.

Teacher

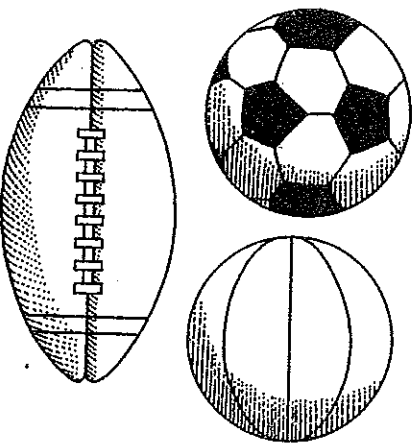
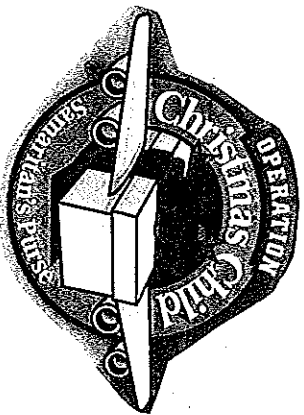
BANCROFT

BANCROFT UMW

Thirteen people attended our July meeting in the church basement. We packed 95 boxes for Samaritans Purse with personal items such as towels, wash cloths, soap, toothpaste and tooth brushes. We also packed toys for different ages and hair ribbons and barrettes. For all the kids with a sweet tooth there is a baggie with hard candy and suckers. There were also school supplies: pencils, scissors, pencil erasers and paper. The boxes will be taken to Swartz Creek United Methodist Church in November where they will be sent to South Carolina to be distributed by Samaritans Purse. There is still time to meet our goal, just get a list from Barb to help out.

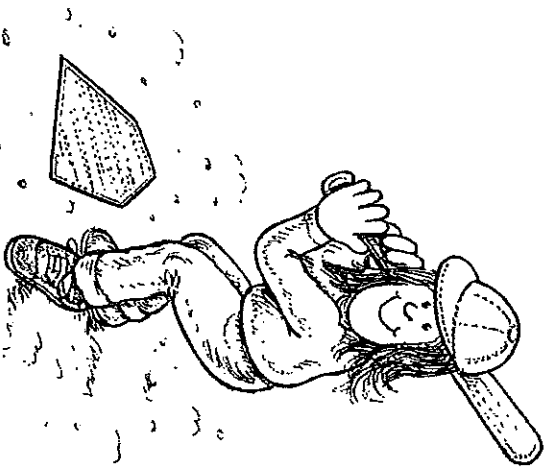
We sent 41 labels and 125 box tops to Red Bird Mission. We would like to give a big thanks to Gaylord and Bonnie Runyan for volunteering to take the school supplies down to Kentucky to Red Bird Mission. We are all very happy to see Bonnie is well enough to make the trip.

The UMW, along with the rest of the church, would like to give a big welcome to Tricia and her family into our church family hoping she will get settled and accept our church like we are, Michigan fans.



GIFT CARDS

Have you remembered to give Pastor Tricia your gift cards? You know, those 3 x 5 index cards that listed your contact information on one side and your gifts for serving the church on the other side? If you don't have one, fill out one and give it to Pastor Tricia this month.



THIS AND THAT SALE

Pittsburg UMC is holding their annual This and That Sale at their church building September 9 and 10. The times are 8:00 am until 5:00 pm on Friday and 8:00 am until 2:00 pm on Saturday. Rumor has it there are treasures to be found.

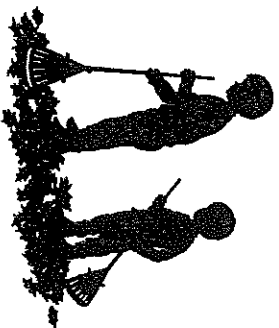
SALAD LUNCHEON

The salad luncheon sponsored by the United Methodist Women of Morrice returns on September 22, 11:00 am until 1:00 pm. The menu includes salads of all types, homemade biscuits with turkey gravy, desserts and beverage. The suggested donation is \$5.00 with take-out orders available.

BIBLE STUDY

This month, the Bible study meets at Morrice each Wednesday at 7:00 pm. Everyone is invited to join us on this journey through the books of the Bible. The study began with Genesis and as of the last of August was reading in 1 Samuel. A few chapters are read each week with discussion and how it relates to our present lives.

The study alternates months at Morrice and Bancroft.



RECYCLING DAY

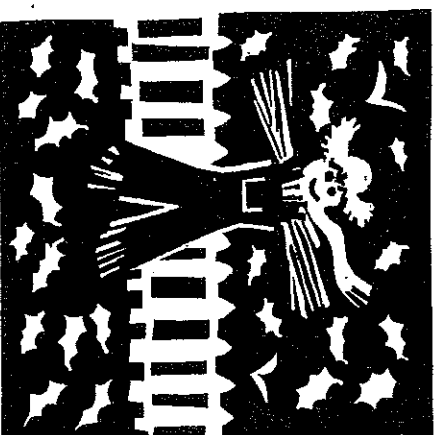
The Morrice UMM (United Methodist Men) will sponsor a Recycling Day at the Morrice UMC parking lot on September 24. Someone will be available to load bagged or bundled newspapers into a trailer 9-11 am. If you cannot make it to the church parking lot that day, the trailer will be at the Village Transfer Station the rest of the month.

At the same time, the youth group will collect rinsed pop bottles and cans for recycling. They use the funds for special projects.

WALKING GROUP

The walking group meets each Monday and Wednesday at 5:30 pm at Morrice. The group walks for about 30 minutes on the sidewalks in town when the weather cooperates. On each

Wednesday, they have been known to go to the restaurant in town for supper and then back to the church for the weekly Bible study.



MORRICE

TIME CHANGES

Morrice has made some time changes and it isn't even "Fall back" time yet. The Sunday School will meet at 9:15 am each Sunday morning. The worship time has changed to 10:30 am. Please keep these new times in mind as we move forward.

There will be a time for Sunday School for the children during regular worship time. Please come and join us.

FALL SPORTS

Good luck to all our fall sports teams as their seasons have already begun. Morrice is represented on both the varsity football team and varsity volleyball team. There are also several youth participating in junior high sports and community sports programs. Remember to practice good sportsmanship as you support these young athletes.

CHOIR

If you enjoy singing praises to the Lord, please join the choir. They meet Wednesday, September 7 at 8:00 pm for practice. More voices are needed. Please come and enjoy a time of fellowship and singing.

MORRICE GREETERS

Sept. 4 Jim & Wendi Valentine
Sept. 11 Cheryl Lewis
Sept. 18 Diane Clark
Sept. 25 Donna Godfrey

MORRICE LITURGIST

Sept. 4 Cheryl Lewis
Sept. 11 Katy Jarrad
Sept. 18 Matt Harvey
Sept. 25 Robin Rogers

COUNTRYSIDE VILLAGE

Earlier in the summer, the Morrice UMC received a grant from the Crossroads District (formerly Flint District) for a ministry program at Countryside Village. They have helped with several programs in the months since, including a pool party. In August, school supplies were handed out to several young students.

Watch your bulletins and websites for more events happening at Countryside Village.

BUCK POLE PLANNING

November 15 or the annual Michigan Holiday is fast approaching. For our Ohio friends, that is opening of firearm deer season. Once again, the Morrice UMC is sponsoring the Buck Pole at the Senior Center in Morrice.

Wendi, our resident "Buck Pole Queen" has requested help this year. There is a meeting scheduled for after worship at Morrice on September 4. Please stay and volunteer to help out to make the day a true success.

MORRICE HIGH HOMECOMING

The Morrice High Homecoming Week is September 19-23 with the big game on Friday evening. The Morrice UMC will again participate with a float in the parade Friday afternoon. Please contact Robin with any help you can give in constructing a float, purchasing supplies or driving the float in the parade.

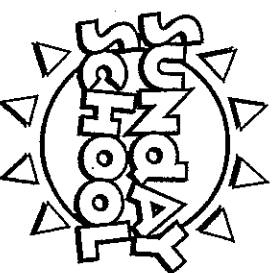
MEETINGS

Upcoming meetings at Morrice are: Trustees on September 11 after worship; UMW at Shirley's house on September 13 at 4:00 pm; Pastor-Parish Committee on the same day at the church at 7:00 pm; Ad Board at the church on September 19 at 7:00 pm. All meetings, except the Pastor-Parish are open to everyone who has an interest in the church.

The Trustees main focus is taking care of the church building and other property and the Buck Pole. The Ad Board is the official board of the church which approves all spending of funds, makes policies and procedures and oversees all other committees of the church.

All are asked to be in attendance at the Administrative Board meetings if at all possible.

**MORRICE WORSHIP TIME HAS
CHANGED TO 10:30 AM.**



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Sept. 1	Bonnie Runyan	B
Sept. 1	Kevin Schneider	M
Sept. 2	Celia Peters	☉
Sept. 2	Ben Shepard	B
Sept. 5	A.J. Pollok	M
Sept. 6	Mark Eddy	B
Sept. 6	Nick Homer	B
Sept. 7	Matt Sprague	B
Sept. 7	Alex Gilbert	M
Sept. 7	Dirk Elliott	☉
Sept. 8	Cliff MacGregor	M
Sept. 9	Jordan Michael	M
Sept. 9	Robert Stoutenberg	B
Sept. 10	Ginnie Sprague	B
Sept. 10	Sherry Fruchey	B
Sept. 10	Troy Douthit	B
Sept. 11	Rick Stickney	B
Sept. 12	Kelsey Butcher	M
Sept. 12	Tim Hulbert	B
Sept. 13	Paul Drobish	B
Sept. 13	Ben Ordway	B
Sept. 15	Tasha Rathbun	M
Sept. 17	Amber Lewis	M
Sept. 18	Kyle Casteneda	M
Sept. 18	Elbert Sidel	M
Sept. 19	Hannah Hulbert	B
Sept. 19	Mason Mendyk	M
Sept. 19	Rachel Buchholz	M
Sept. 20	Teitia Rutherford	M
Sept. 20	Bruce Rogers	M
Sept. 21	Donna Tobey	B
Sept. 21	Norm Lewis	B
Sept. 22	Laura Bower	B
Sept. 22	Tricia Elliott	☉
Sept. 24	Pauline Hart	B
Sept. 24	Pat Berkompas	B
Sept. 24	Peggy Niksich	B
Sept. 24	Korry Bigelow	B
Sept. 24	John Buchholz	M

**MORRICE UNITED
 METHODIST CHURCH**
 PO BOX 301
 MORRICE, MI 48857-0301

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

For Morrice and Bancroft United
 Methodist Churches

Sept. 26	Karen Weaver	B
Sept. 27	Joan Willis	M
Sept. 28	Bill McPherson	M
Sept. 28	Ricky Wright	B
Sept. 28	Susan Adair	M
Sept. 29	Gayle Hulbert	B
Sept. 29	Cade Caseneda	M
Sept. 30	Gaylord Runyan	B

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Sept. 6	Bill & Carolyn Hulbert	B
Sept. 8	Rev. John & Debra Schneider	M
Sept. 9	Jim & Pat Hendley	B
Sept. 10	Bill & Rhonda McPherson	M
Sept. 12	Matt & Ginnie Sprague	B
Sept. 17	Dale & Joan Willis	M
Sept. 23	Dave & Nancy Haas	M
Sept. 23	Dave & Kasey Fiebernitz	B
Sept. 23	Doug & Diane Clark	M
Sept. 25	Todd & Leonora Fruchey	B
Sept. 26	Bena & Rachelle Twichell	M
Sept. 27	Jim & Wendi Valentine	M
Sept. 28	Alex & Bea Gilbert	M
Sept. 30	Bruce & Robin Rogers	M

COMING EVENTS

Oct. 2 CROP Walk; Chicken Dinner (P)
 Oct. 9 Crossroads District Conference, Mission
 Fair and District Board of Missions at
 Chesaning Trinity UMC
 Oct. 16 Laity Sunday
 Oct. 23 World Communion Special offering;
 Charge Hay Ride
 Oct. 30 Food Collection Challenge begins
 Oct. 31 Trick or Treating at Morrice
 Nov 13 Charge Conference
 Nov 15 Buck Pole at Morrice

Non-Profit Org.
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID
 PERMIT No. 4
 Morrice, MI

SEPTEMBER

- 4 Communion Sunday; Buck Pole meeting (M) after worship
- 5 LABOR DAY; Walking Group (M) 5:30 pm
- 6 Parsonage Committee at (B) 7:00 pm
- 7 Walking Group (M) 5:30 pm; Bible Study @ (M) 7:00 pm; Choir (M) 8:00 pm
- 11 Food Collection Sunday; Charge Potluck @ (M) 1:00 pm
- 12 Walking Group (M) 5:30 pm
- 13 UMMW (M) 4:00 pm; PPRC @ (M) 7:00 pm
- 14 Walking Group (M) 5:30 pm; Bible Study @ (M) 7:00 pm
- 15 Newsletter items due
- 18 Haiti Hot Lunch (M); Hour of Prayer: 2:00 pm
- 19 Walking Group (M) 5:30 pm; Ad Board (M) 7:00 pm
- 21 Walking Group (M) 5:30 pm; Bible Study at (M) 7:00 pm; UMMW (B) 7:00 pm
- 22 Salad Luncheon @ (M) 11-1:00 pm
- 23 Homecoming Parade (M)
- 24 Recycling Day (M) 9-11 am
- 25 Peace With Justice Special offering
- 26 Walking Group (M) 5:30 pm
- 28 Walking Group (M) 5:30 pm; Bible Study @ (M) 7:00 pm

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

<i>Bancroft Worship</i>	9:00 am
<i>Morrice Sunday School</i>	9-15 am
<i>Morrice Worship</i>	10:30 am

FACEBOOK

The Morrice and Bancroft charge has joined the 21st century. We are on Facebook! This is a completely free site. Please watch this site for important announcements! Tell your friends and pass the word on to everyone you know.

You do not need to be a member to view the page, but you must have an account if you would like to post something on the site.

MAILING LIST

Please let me know of any changes, additions, deletions I need to make to our mailing list. We have had to make several changes in recent months to the list and it takes time to catch up on all of them. Please let me know how to make the newsletter better.

Nina

CHARGE POTLUCK

The monthly charge potlucks return this month. The first one will be September 11 at Morrice at 1:00 pm. Everyone is asked to bring a dish to pass. Beverage and table service will be provided. Note the earlier time. Come and enjoy a time of fellowship.

CHARGE CONFERENCE

The annual Charge Conference for Bancroft and Morrice is scheduled for November 13 at Bancroft UMC. The pastor-parish committee will meet with the District Superintendent at 6:00 pm with the conference meeting at 6:45 pm.

Leading up to this conference, there may be special meetings called so please watch your bulletins and newsletter and websites carefully.

Don't forget the worship time change at Morrice. Worship now begins at 10:30 am.

